

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL HAMILTON
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218913

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, IC

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE ON ICELAND

1. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE NEXT ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT WILL
CONTAIN MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLES' ALLIANCE (PA), A PARTY
GENERALLY CONSIDERED COMMUNIST. POSTS SHOULD REFRAIN FROM
VOLUNTEERING ANY COMMENT OR OPINION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN
ICELAND AND, IN PARTICULAR, FROM MAKING ANY SPECIFIC
JUDGMENTS OR RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE NEXT GOVERNMENT
OR WHAT ITS RELATIONSHIP TO NATO MIGHT BE.

2. IF THE NEXT GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND DOES INCLUDE
MEMBERS OF THE PA, POSTS MAY DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING
GUIDANCE WITH OFFICIAL CONTACTS ON AN IF-ASKED BASIS,
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SAYING AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS
NOT REPEAT NOT FOR USE WITH THE PRESS. ANY OFFICIAL
PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT WILL COME FROM A USG
SPOKESPERSON.

-- OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES ARE SOVEREIGN COUNTRIES AND THE
DECISION ON HOW THEY ARE GOVERNED RESTS WITH THEIR

CITIZENS ALONE.

-- ICELAND IS AN IMPORTANT AND VALUABLE ALLY, AND IT PLAYS A FULL AND ACTIVE ROLE WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. IT IS UNIQUE AMONG THE ALLIES, HOWEVER, IN NOT HAVING ANY MILITARY FORCES OF ITS OWN. ICELAND'S DEFENSE IS PROVIDED FOR BY THE ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE, NOW COMPOSED OF ABOUT 3,000 US SERVICEMEN.

-- MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLES' ALLIANCE HAVE PARTICIPATED TWICE BEFORE IN ICELANDIC GOVERNMENTS SINCE ICELAND JOINED NATO: IN 1956 AND IN 1971. IN THOSE GOVERNMENTS PA MEMBERS HELD MINISTRIES NOT DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH SECURITY MATTERS.

-- NATO HAS ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES TO PROTECT THE SECURITY OF NATO ACTIVITIES, BUT THOSE PROCEDURES ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT TO BE DISCUSSED.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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